

**N**ew York State's innovative Occupational Health Clinics are recognized centers of excellence, providing a unique blend of diagnostic and prevention services for occupational disease. Created in 1987 by the New York State Legislature and funded from a surcharge on Workers' Compensation premiums, the clinics are coordinated by the Department of Health through contracts with sponsoring institutions. The clinics offer specialized medical diagnoses, high-quality care and support services for workers with occupational disease. They also meet the needs of businesses and workers by identifying and controlling hazards and suggesting practical ways to reduce or prevent illness and injury.

All clinic directors are board-certified in Occupational Medicine. Treatment teams include nurses, industrial hygienists, social workers and occupational physicians.

## FOCUS

New York's Occupational Health Clinics offer:

- diagnoses for work-related diseases;
- treatment for injured or ill workers;
- screening for workers at increased risk;
- industrial hygiene evaluation of workplace hazards;

- recommendations to reduce or eliminate hazards in the workplace;
- training and education for workers, employers, unions and healthcare professionals.

Clinics are able to focus on specialized and complicated problems because they draw on expertise from around the region in epidemiology, toxicology, ergonomics and industrial hygiene. Such vast resources provide the base to develop preventive measures for growing public health concerns like repetitive strain injuries, lead poisoning and asthma.

## ACCESSIBILITY

With seven regional clinics and their satellite offices and one specially designated agricultural medicine clinic, occupational health services are available to workers across New York State. In addition, clinics are establishing relationships with Workers' Compensation Preferred Provider Organizations resulting in enhanced coordination of health care services for injured workers.

Each clinic accepts public and private medical insurance as well as Workers' Compensation. Clinics use a sliding fee scale and no worker is denied care because of a lack of resources.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Each clinic targets educational programs to high-risk industries and occupations in its area. Training is designed and focused for:

- employers and workers to ensure safety and good health in the workplace, and
- local health care professionals (including medical students) so that they may better understand occupationally related diseases.

A series of nine publicly available clinical practice reviews have been written. These peer-reviewed articles address both clinical and preventive aspects of disease management. The topics include: asbestos, lead, solvents, CTS and other cumulative trauma disorders, and asthma.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

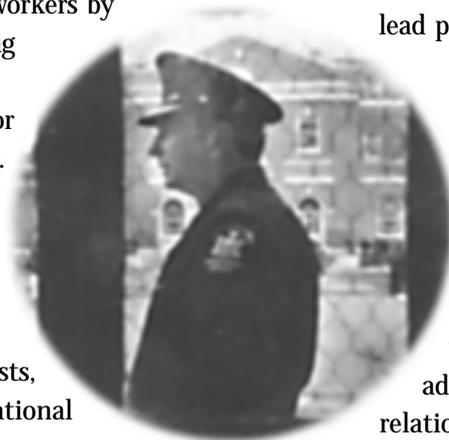
Each clinic has its own advisory board, consisting of representatives from business, labor unions, community groups and health care professionals. Boards provide guidance on policy issues and assure that clinic activities are targeted to those workers who are most at risk of occupational disease.

Every year tens of thousands of New Yorkers suffer from work-related diseases such as lung disease, carpal tunnel syndrome, hearing loss, pesticide poisoning and heavy metals poisoning.

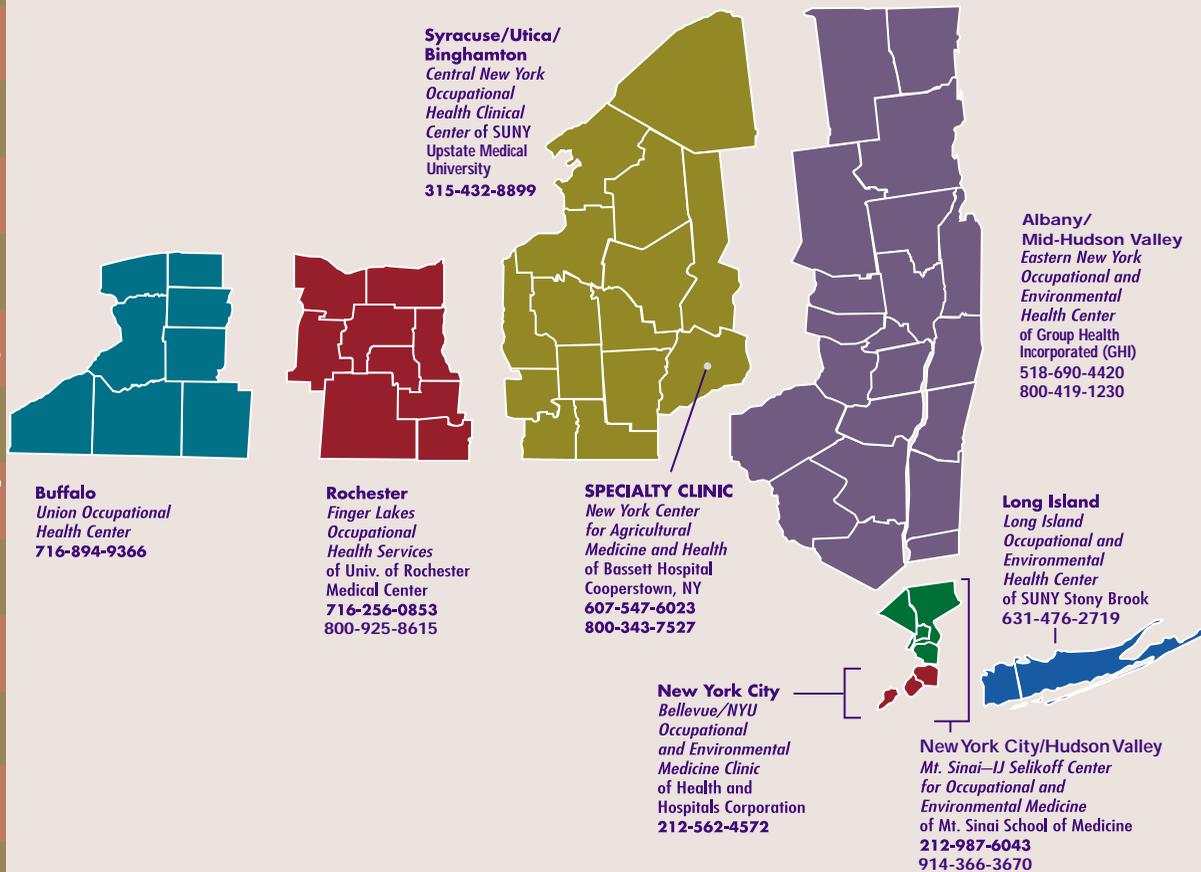
PHOTOS BY EARL DOTTER

## PREVENTION

Clinics submit data to the State Health Department to help identify disease trends and focus resources on emerging problems. Linkage with three state disease registries provides valuable information about at-risk populations, and assists with public health policy and program formulation, follow-up treatment and workplace interventions.



## NEW YORK STATE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CLINICS



For further information, contact your local occupational health clinic, or the New York State Department of Health at:

**1-800-458-1158**

[www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/enviro/occupate.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/enviro/occupate.htm)

PROTECTING THE WORKERS OF NEW YORK STATE



State of New York  
George E. Pataki, Governor

Department of Health  
Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner

